(iii) **Rural Sports Programme**—The Rural Sports Programme was launched in 1970-71 with a view to broad-basing games and sports and tapping the talent from the rural areas. The scheme has two components, viz., organization of rural sports tournaments (with a higher scale of assistance in the North-Eastern States) and the organization of a sports festival for the North-Eastern Region. Rural Sports Tournaments are organized in selected sports disciplines such as athletics, tug-of-war, archery, hockey, kho-kho, kabaddi, weightlifting volleyball, wrestling and football (boys only) at block, district, state and national levels. However, the State Government/UT Administration may also organize tournaments in any other indigenous sports popular in the area at block, district and state levels. Financial assistance is also provided to NGOs, including NYKS, for organizing district-level competitions.

The Sports Authority of India also trains identified elite/talented sportspersons in SAI Training Centres, Special Area Games Centres & Centres of Excellence for preparing them to achieve excellence at international levels.

Bangladesh Emerging as Launching Pad for Terrorism

142. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangladesh has emerged as a launch pad for Pakistan-based terror groups like the Lasshker-e-Taiba and are not co-operating with India in bringing them down in spite of continuously pressing Bangladesh to flush out the terrorist and destroy their training camps;

(b) whether India urged Government of Banladesh to tackle migrants who has been on increase for several years and has become a problem for India to tackle these migrants; and

(c) if so, to what extent Bangladesh controlled migration of terrorist to India and also check the terrorist activities?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There have been incidents of terrorist violence in India

where use of Bangladeshi soil by anti-India elements as well as Pakistan-based terrorist groups has come to the notice of Government.

(b) Government has regularly taken up the issue of illegal immigration with the Government of Bangladesh. There are also bilateral institutional mechanisms for discussing such issues.

(c) The Government of Bangladesh has assured us at the highest level that its territory will not be allowed to be used for activities inimical to India. Government of India has emphasized to them the need for concrete and sustained action towards fulfilling this assurance.

Joint Mechanism for Containing Terrorism

143. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of joint mechanism set up with Pakistan for containing terrorists activities in India;

(b) whether the details of the probe carried out by Mumbai Police which revealed intricate ISI terror network in India would be sent to the joint mechanism; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure that the information passed by India in this regard would not be used by ISI to plug loopholes in carrying out such subversive designs in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) During Foreign Secretary level talks on 14-15 November 2006, it was agreed to set up a 3-member anti-terror mechanism headed by Additional Secretary (International Organisations) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India and Additional Secretary (UN & EC) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. The mandate of the mechanism would be to consider counter-terrorism measures, including through the regular and timely sharing of information. The matter concerning cross-border links to Mumbai blasts was raised with Pakistan during the Foreign Secretary talks. Evidence on Mumbai blasts has not been given to Pakistan as the relevant charge-sheets are yet to be filed.